

The Abbey School

Sixth Form



English Language & Literature - IB

English Language and Literature is a hugely enjoyable and challenging part of the IB Diploma Programme at both Higher and Standard Level. The aim of the course is to allow students to think critically about the context in which a text is written, its audience and purpose, and how it may be received. The course will introduce students to a wide range of texts from different genres, periods and places both literary and non-literary. In the English department we value independent learning, creativity and attention to detail, preparing our students for university regardless of the subject they wish to study.

Syllabus Content

At Higher Level, girls receive six periods of English per week and study 6 literature texts and a wealth of non-literary bodies of work; at Standard Level they receive four periods of English per week and study 4 literature texts and a wide range of non-literary bodies of work. The course encourages students to think critically about the following areas of exploration:

- **Readers, Writers, Texts:** The study will focus on the relationships between texts, readers and writers as well as the nature of literature and its study. This study includes the investigation of the response of readers, and the ways in which texts generate meaning.
- **Time and Space:** This area of study focuses on the contexts of texts and the variety of ways literary texts might both reflect and shape society at large. The focus is on the consideration of personal and cultural perspectives, the development of broader perspectives, and an awareness of the ways in which context is tied to meaning.
- **Intertextuality:** The works that have been chosen allow us the opportunity to understand and make fruitful comparisons between texts. This area of study focuses on intertextual relationships between literary texts with possibilities to explore various topics, thematic concerns, generic conventions, modes or literary traditions that have been introduced throughout the course.

Assessment

- One internally assessed and externally moderated Oral Commentary (SL 30%; HL 20%) – completed at the end of Lower VI
- two externally examined written examination papers sat at the end of the Upper VI (SL 70%; HL 60%).
- For Higher Level only. one externally assessed 1200-1500 word written coursework essay (20%)